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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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M/021/004

September 15, 1995

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Senior Reclamation Specialist *adg*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 12, 1995
Time of Inspection: 1310 -1450
Conditions: Clear skies
Participants: Bill Truman, Caretaker for Escalante Silver Mine, Hecla Mining Co;
Tom Munson, Tony Gallegos - DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To evaluate condition of site while in the area.

We met the caretaker, Bill Truman, at the site. We then drove up onto the north east (?) edge of the reclaimed tailings impoundment. The impoundment was capped with wasterock and topsoil during 1994. The impoundment cap has not been seeded yet. It is also believed that the borrow areas have not been seeded yet. Bill indicated Hecla has plans to seed the site sometime during October 1995. Vegetation present on the surface of the impoundment is the result of natural invasion. The predominate species which we could identify included russian thistle, globe mallow and cheat grass. There were a number of boulders (36 inch diameter and smaller) on the impoundment in this area. Bill informed us the boulders were included in some of the soils removed from a nearby borrow area.. Bill was unable to stay for the entire inspection due to some commitments in Cedar City. He instructed us to lock up the mill building when we were finished.

We next examined the diversion channel around this half of the impoundment. The tailings cover and diversion channel showed some signs of erosion due to channeling of surface waters. The impacts of this erosion were minimal at this time. Photographs were taken looking east-southeast over the impoundment.



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We next examined the monitoring well locations at the base of the impoundment. We closed the gate on the perimeter fence upon leaving. We did not examine the various borrow areas around the impoundment.

We next visited the mill facilities. We briefly walked through the building and then proceeded to the catwalks above the thickeners. Water/leachate was running from a pipe into the standing tanks during this inspection. The water eventually ends up in the lined pond surrounding the standing tanks. Some water was contained in this pond area at this time. Bill had informed us that all leachate collected from the tailings impoundment was being piped to the containment pond and allowed to evaporate. We locked the door to the mill building as we left the site.

jb
cc: Bill Truman, Hecla Escalante
Gina Pack, BLM, Beaver River RA
M021004.INS